

jovial demeanor and laugh will remain with us. As we reflect fondly on the relationships Dave made and the partnerships he formed in his quest to defend the Grasslands from degradation, we also remember how he touched our lives. When a flock of ducks sails across the sky this fall, think of Dave.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF MALIN KENNETH OSHMAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Malin Kenneth Oshman, a visionary, a leader, a builder of businesses, a family man, and a most generous contributor to our community. A man of his brilliance and accomplishment is a rarity, and his family's great loss is also a great loss for our nation.

Ken is reported to have said, "The interesting thing is that there are so few important decisions. You don't have to go in the 'right' direction. You don't have to enter the 'right' business. What you have to do is have made a decision as to what you're going to do and then you just have to figure out how to succeed at it." Ken succeeded at many things, including earning B.S. and B.S.E.E degrees from Rice University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, while working at Sylvania. He was a founder of ROLM Corporation, and was CEO, President and Executive Chairman of Echelon until he stepped down for health reasons. He served on many corporate boards and was a mentor to countless Silicon Valley leaders and an advisor to President Reagan.

Ken's final corporate creation was Echelon, a company that is working to transform the electricity grid into a smart, communicating energy control network. At the company's 20th anniversary event, Ken spoke about the company's future opportunities and his hopes for it. His words demonstrate Ken's concern not just for his company, but for all of us. "Today, the demand for energy has made it obvious that efficiency is the best, most accessible, and lowest cost alternative fuel in existence, and we believe Echelon is at the forefront in delivering the technology to make the world a more energy efficient, cleaner, and better place."

Ken's creations were not limited to high-tech businesses. Ken and his beloved wife Barbara donated \$10 million to help create the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto, a building many times larger than the 2,000 square foot building in Texas where Jewish families gathered when he was a boy. The Oshman Family JCC, which opened two years ago, has already provided thousands of people with living space, healthy recreation, intergenerational activities, child care and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the Oshman family . . . his childhood sweetheart and wife of 49 years, Barbara; his two sons, Peter and David, and their wives, Stephanie and Joanna; four grandchildren; and his brother and sister-in-law, Rick and Tania Oshman of Texas. His loss will be felt deeply by his

family, by the Silicon Valley he helped to found, and to all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a great and good man, and his life's work, in all of its diverse dimensions, will live long after him. I have always considered it a great privilege to know Ken Oshman, to represent him and to call him my friend. He made his community better and our country stronger.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED
HEART PARISH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate the congregation of the Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, Indiana, as they celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the parish, as well as the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the church. On Sunday, August 28, 2011, a special Holy Mass, officiated by Bishop Dale Melczek, will take place at Sacred Heart, which will be followed by a celebratory luncheon.

Sacred Heart was originally known as Mission of Assumption Slovak Parish. It was founded in order to meet the spiritual needs of Catholic Slovaks in East Chicago, Indiana. From 1926 to 1941, the church held Mass, Confession, and other services at various churches in East Chicago. Father Clement Mlinarovich began to see a great need to build the church in East Chicago, and in May 1941, Bishop John Francis Noll dedicated the beautiful church building and new home of Sacred Heart Parish. The congregation was overjoyed to have a tremendous place of worship and prayer. In addition, parishioners took great pride in the new building because so many of them assisted in its construction. Father Andrew G. Grutka was the first resident pastor at the newly completed church, a position he held from 1942 to 1944, and later became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Gary. Following Father Grutka, Father Louis Duray and Father Milan Bach made significant improvements to the church, which included updating the sanctuary and purchasing the priest's home. My good friend and fellow Slovak, Monsignor Joseph Semancik, has served the people of Sacred Heart Parish since 1960. Over the years, the parish has grown to include members from many different ethnicities. During his tenure, Monsignor Semancik served as the Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Gary. Monsignor Semancik's devoted life of charitable good works is truly inspirational. For his struggle to ensure economic justice for all, and for passionately serving those in need, he is to be respected and admired.

This August celebration is tinged with sadness because the parish will be closing in October. Monsignor Semancik will be retiring as the priest of the parish and the congregation will be dispersing to neighboring parishes. The past 85 years have been times of grace for the members and friends of Sacred Heart Parish, which they have shared with the community of East Chicago. Although the parish will be closing, the spirit and prayers of its members will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring

and congratulating Sacred Heart Parish. Throughout the years, Sacred Heart has built their congregation and expanded their mission, not only by serving the dedicated, loyal parishioners, but also by touching the lives of countless members of the surrounding community. For their outstanding commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and parish members are to be highly commended. May God continue to bless the parish members and its leaders upon the closing of the church and as they move on to the next part of their spiritual lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
"JOE" PETER FISCHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Joseph "Joe" Peter Fischer whose life was tragically taken on August 11, 2011, in Sanger, California, at the age of one-hundred. Mr. Fischer was a proud veteran of the California Army National Guard and a dedicated member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, an organization dedicated to improving communities. His vibrant spirit will be deeply missed.

Mr. Fischer was born on February 15, 1911, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He relocated to Fresno, California's Fig Garden Village as a child with his parents and siblings. It was in the great San Joaquin Valley that he learned the value of hard work. He grew up working on his family's small farm, picking figs and caring for farm animals; his fondest memories included those of him and his mother working on the pastures. He eventually began working on automobiles and ultimately showcased his entrepreneurial spirit by opening a mechanic shop.

A true American patriot, Mr. Fischer proudly served his state and country in the 185th Second Infantry California Army National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1933. Mr. Fischer recognized the importance of serving his country and his time in the California Army National Guard served as a testament to his character and his commitment to the preservation of freedom and democracy.

Upon completing his military service, Joe continued his support of his community by always maintaining an active role in his neighborhood. Most notably, his involvement and membership in the Fraternal Order of Eagles, demonstrated his desire to promote peace, prosperity, and hope. It also demonstrated his commitment to the betterment of Sanger, California, the community he resided in and became a beloved member of.

Mr. Fischer was a loyal friend and cherished confidant to those he knew. He was passionate for the ideals and values in which he believed in. He served as a role model for the entire community and was a respected voice among his colleagues and friends.

Mr. Fischer is survived by his sisters Mary Morgan, Alyce Holland, Betty Babcock, and son Joe Fischer, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Joseph "Joe" Peter Fischer, a man who lived a life full of energy and love. His bravery and determination will forever be remembered.